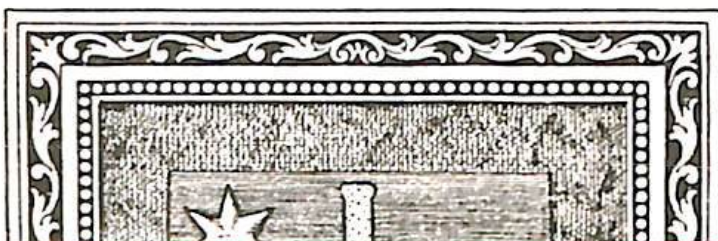


PN
6101
B3

COMPUTER POEMS

Gathered by
Richard W. Bailey





UNIVERSITY *of*
NOTRE DAME



LIBRARIES

COMPUTER POEMS

gathered by
Richard W. Bailey

Potagannissing Press
Drummond Island, Michigan

PN
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Potagannissing Press
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Preface

Computer poetry is warfare carried out by other means, a warfare against conventionality and language that has become automatized. Strange as it seems, our finite state automata have become the poet's allies in this struggle, the long historical battle by which mankind pries into the surface of language to reveal its latent mysteries.

At the beginning of this century, Stephane Mallarmé published a slogan for modernism: A throw of the dice will never abolish chance. Chance is not abolished by the computer's randomizing power but is re-created in different terms. The poet-programmer finds this power a tool to create a new set of dice, multi-faceted and marked with elements of his own choosing.

Yet the new battle to free language is fought on familiar battlefields: concrete poetry is reflected with a computer mirror in the poems of Leslie Mezei and Greta Monach; pure poetry of sound in the verbal orchestrations of Archie Donald and Noreen Greeno; imagistic poetry in the juxtaposition of the unfamiliar by Charles Forbes, James Runner, and Robin Shirley; syllabic organization in the haiku of Margaret Chisman, Robert Gaskins, and John Morris; the imposition of order on disorder in the poems of Marie Borroff, Pete Kilgannon, and Louis Milic. From all of these varied efforts a new convention has already arisen that allows poets like Edwin Morgan the scope to simulate computer poetry without recourse to the machine.

327-2-24

The Potagannissing Press takes pleasure in the publication of the following collection of poems, an edition of computer-assisted literary works executed in Britain, Canada, and the United States.

The occasion for its publication was a symposium on the computer in the arts held at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in May 1973, an event sponsored by the Academy, the Bloomfield Art Association, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Michigan, with the support of the Michigan Council for the Arts.

The editor wishes to thank the contributors for making their work available for publication here. Inquiries concerning this and other Potagannissing Press publications should be directed to 1609 Cambridge Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

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COMPUTER POEMS

to
the

Marie Borroff

POEMS FROM THE CHINESE

Gracious is money
And avuncular are the buttonholes of its bed;
But it is among the berries, and there only,
That the graciousness of money may guard us
And the buttonhole of its bed may be judged.

Furtive is mahogany
And delirious are the shadows of its pants;
But it is among the pastures, and there only,
That the furtiveness of mahogany may uplift us
And the shadows of its pants may be dissolved.

Base is darkness
And passionate are the lungs of its shape;
But it is among the fields, and there only,
That the baseness of darkness may know us
And the lungs of its shape may be wronged.

Stiff is music
And deep are the steeples of its caress;
But it is among the trees, and there only,
That the stiffness of music may create us
And the steeples of its caress may be judged.

Transparent is flesh
And ancient are the shadows of its spittle;
But it is among the trains, and there only,
That the transparency of flesh may breed us
And the shadows of its spittle may be quenched.

NEW YORK

Woman, why do you create your face
In the fountains of New York?
"The fountains are gracious,
And the nightmares guard them."

Lover, why do you protect your foot
From the berries of New York?
"The berries are analyzable,
And the edges solemnize them."

Brother, why do you gather your shroud
From the ices of New York?
"The ices are warm
And the lamentations ride them."

Moron, why do you open your outrage
Among the flowers of New York?
"The flowers are red
And the rivers kindle them."

Policeman, why do you fulfill your eyesockets
In the rivers of New York?
"The rivers are deep
And the disguises bury them."

Woman, let your face multiply and be ridden.
Lover, let your foot dwell and be stained.
Brother, let your shroud shake and be pounded.
Moron, let your outrage sit and be solemnized.
Policeman, let your eyesockets dwell and be surrounded.

A SELECTION OF HAIKU

The world searches hesitantly
But I exalt in the vision
Vast acute elation merging totally

The world probes relentlessly
But I believe in the challenge
Brave muted sacrifice intruding stealthily

The world mocks effectively
But I explore in the ambience
Harsh resolute experiment appeasing obliquely

The world hates irrevocably
But I discover in the struggle
Free wanton aversion knowing intuitively

The world yields silently
But I default in the retreat
Strange languid fulfilment dying imperceptibly

LIFE IS A RANDOM WALK

A stupid practice of dreaming
Sometimes results in stagnation
Yet I pray alone on a mountain
Dangerously

A stifling trauma of suffering
Sometimes results in decay
Yet I meditate alone on a mountain
Ferociously

A rigid pattern of learning
Sometimes results in confusion
Yet I walk alone on a mountain
Ridiculously

A ruthless turbulence of loving
Sometimes results in exhaustion
Yet I fast alone on a mountain
Meaninglessly

A sudden syndrome of giving
Sometimes results in release
Yet I wait alone on a mountain
Anxiously

A painful habit of belonging
Sometimes results in rejection
Yet I sing alone on a mountain
Triumphantly

CHANCE AND CHOICE

Enthralling tondling
Competing responding
Treacherous prophets fiercely recoil
Because desire and analysis
Exalt stealthily
Excite tangibly
Faith is greater than a tangle of enlightenment

Yearning mingling
Thwarting absorbing
Lustful women relentlessly refuse
Unlike desire and synthesis
Inhibit skilfully
Reveal indirectly
Love is rarely a coil of deceit

Soothing stroking
Deriding dispersing
Diffident men irrevocably soften
But matrix and process
Evade infallibly
Expose effectively
Marriage is sometimes a bridge of choice

Confiding dancing
Fleeing rebelling
Naked maidens inexorably betray
But chance and design
Recede hopelessly
Rebuke utterly
Life is for some a web of folly

Languishing embracing
Rejecting parting
Submissive lovers silently mellow
Beyond strategy and impact
Subdue softly
Incite adroitly
Beauty is forever the shape of joy

DUNETUNE

Leaving no footprints on water she sleeps with shadows
prescience passed future
Starlike in youth dunelike in age my freedom is hers
Spacespectre walking on planets undreamed of
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Essence of dreams
Walking on planets undreamed of she awaits the return
of waves
She remembers no one
Essence of dreams parted in some long forgotten seed
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Born of a universal stalemate
joining joy with repose a time for inconsequence
my freedom is hers
Walking on planets undreamed of leaving no footprints
on water
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Clutching at dreams I whisper her name
clutching at dreams her name
dreams clutching at name her I dream
dreams I dream clutching at clutching her
clutching at her dreams

TIMESHARING

Conditional Jump
TIME ON 15:35

A Basic Experience
LONDON B

SYSTEM ----- BASIC
NEW OR OLD ----- NEW
PROJECT ID ----- LOVEYU
PROGRAM ----- WELAST

READY

```
1 LET X = YOU
2 LET Y = ME
3 LET X * Y = X, Y, C, D
4 IF X > Y GO TO 11
5 THEN IF X < Y GO TO 10
6 IF X = Y
7 PRINT "APPLE PIE"
8 READ C,D
9 GO TO 3
10 PRINT "ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE
    TWO BEARS"
11 PRINT "CHANGE PROGRAM"
12 DATA INSERT
20 NEXT

999 STOP
```

RUN

WAIT

"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE TWO BEARS"
?

"NOW UPON A TIME THERE ARE THREE BEARS" INTEGRATE

"NOW UPON A TIME THERE ARE THREE BEARS"

? AGAIN AGAIN AGAIN

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FOUR BEARS"

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FOUR BEARS"

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FORE BEARS"

? VALUE JUDGEMENT

TILL THE TIME COMES TO EXPAND

THEY ALL LIVE TOGETHER AS A VIABLE

FAMILY UNIT

? SAVE CONVERT TO PROGRAM 'EXPAND'

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

END

BYE

OFF AT 15:54

VALID TIME 24.8 SECS

GLOSSARY

> BIGGER THAN

< SMALLER THAN

* TIMES (MULTIPLIED BY)

? WHAT NEXT

IF READ ALOUD TWO VOICES SHOULD BE USED.

FLAT

CHEERFUL

TELCOMP POEMS

OLD VILLAGES TOWER BRIGHTLY
NEAR OLD OR WHITEWASHED DUNFERMLINE
NEAR THE SMOKY RIVER
NEAR THE WHITEWASHED WOOD
NEW BRIDGES STAND DARKLY

GLOOMY HAMLETS BURN MOROSELY
NEAR DESOLATE OR OLD DUNSINANE
BESIDE SOME DESOLATE HOLLOW
NEAR THE DESOLATE HOLLOW
DARK HAMLETS BECOME BRIEFLY

GREEN HAMLETS LIE SOMBRELY
NEAR OLD OR OLD DUNFERMLINE
BESIDE SOME DARK MOUNTAIN
BEFORE SOME DESOLATE HOLLOW
NEW ARCHES THREATEN BRIGHTLY

SMOKY TOWER MOROSELY
NEAR DESOLATE AND NEW DUNDEE
WITH THE DARK MOUNTAIN
NEAR THE WHITEWASHED WOOD
SMOKY VILLAGES THREATEN DARKLY

OLD VILLAS DIVIDE QUIETLY
BEFORE SMOKY AND CROWDED DUNFERMLINE
NEAR THE SMOKY RIVER
NEAR SOME WHITEWASHED WOOD
GREEN STREETS DIVIDE MOROSELY

THE INVITING INVITING FLESH
PASSIONATE ANGELA
ALONG THE TREES AND VALLEYS
BEHIND THE SANDS AND FLOWERS
SENSUAL LINDA
PASSIONATE CHERIE
SULTRY ALICIA
UPON THE TREES

THE INVITING WILLING HAIR
INVITING ATLAS
ALONG THE WAVES AND SANDS
UPON THE TREES AND VINES
TORRID MERCURY
SENSUAL APOLLO
ABANDONED LINDA
CLOSE TO THE TREES

THE PASSIONATE INVITING BODY
EROTIC HELEN
AMONG THE VINES AND VINES
UPON THE SANDS AND VALLEYS
EROTIC APOLLO
EROTIC MERCURY
PASSIONATE CHERIE
ALONG THE VINES

THE WILLING ABANDONED APPEAL
TORRID ALICIA
AMONG THE SANDS AND GRASSES
ABOVE THE VALLEYS AND WAVES
TORRID ALICIA
INVITING LINDA
PASSIONATE MERCURY
ABOVE THE SHORES

THE TORRID WILLING HAIR
INVITING MERCURY
CLOSE TO THE SHORES AND TREES
BEHIND THE GRASSES AND FLOWERS
EROTIC MERCURY
TORRID ALICIA
WILLING HELEN
ABOVE THE SHORES

The centurion renews the lighted watchman
Floating above the several and distant battlements
Whispering and running
Running and searching
Beneath lighted hallways and hollow battlements
Outside the lonely lonely subways

The centurion reveals the cloistered messenger
Floating between the blue-grey and blue-grey hallways
Escaping and searching
Encroaching and opening
Inside windswept columns and several columns
Under the windswept lonely pillars

The beast muffles the secluded trumpeter
Floating along the hollow and secluded columns
Escaping and encroaching
Whispering and whispering
Along secluded subways and lighted subways
Outside the lonely lighted columns

The trumpeter withstands the hollow versifier
Encroaching under the distant and lighted columns
Escaping and searching
Floating and encroaching
Along distant corridors and cloistered subways
Beneath the lighted lighted subways

The messenger announces the blue-grey horseman
Whispering out of the lonely and hollow galleries
Searching and whispering
Breaking and escaping
Through lonely corridors and secluded hallways
Above the distant several subways

Robert Gaskins, Jr.

HAIKU ARE LIKE TROLLIES

(There'll Be Another One Along in a Moment)

WANDERING IN MIST
REACHING OUT TO SOFT SUNLIGHT
BLUE-SCALED DRAGONS PAUSE.

MOON LOW OVER SEA
GLIMPSE OF DISCARDED COCOON
SMALL FISH SWIMMING IDLY.

FISHERMAN'S BOAT DRIFTS
MEDITATING ON LILIES
FIREFLIES LISTENING.

DARK EYES OF RACCOONS
REMEMBRANCE OF MORNING STAR
ARRIVING IN STARS.

QUAIL AGAINST WATER
WALKING AND SEEING WOODSMOKE
LONELY CITY, DARK.

WHITE KITTENS PLAYING
REACHING OUT TO PLUM BLOSSOMS
MIST BEYOND RIDERS.

ARRIVING IN MIST
THOUGHTS OF WHITE POINSETTIAS
SNOW LEOPARDS WATCHING.

MOON LOW OVER SEA
SUDDEN VISION OF MOONRISE
WHITE MANDARIN DUCKS.

LOOKING AT HIGH WALLS
THOUGHTS OF SNOW LEFT UNMELTED
SWALLOWS LISTENING.

GOLDEN ORIOLES
SO MUCH IMPORTANCE IN PATHS
RED-MANED PONIES, DARK.

WANDERING IN PINES
MEDITATING ON BRANCHES
ELK AGAINST WATER.

RED FOX CUBS WATCHING
MEDITATING ON SPRING RAIN
SCENTED THORNGRASSES.

PINES AMONG RIDERS
OLD MAN IS SPEAKING OF FROST
MOUNTAIN JAYS WATCHING.

YELLOW RIVER, PALE,
REMEMBRANCE OF PLUM BLOSSOMS
BLUE-SCALED DRAGONS SLEEP.

MIST UPON SQUIRREL'S FUR
SCENT OF YELLOW MULBERRIES
HEAVY-ANTLERED DEER.

MOON LOW OVER SEA
REACHING OUT TO EMPTY NESTS
DISTANT CRY OF LOON.

DEPARTING IN MIST
STANDING BY LOTUS FLOWERS
GRAY LIZARDS DROWSING.

LONELY CITY, FAINT,
LOOKING AT CAMELLIAS
SNAILS BESIDE THE POOL.

CRY OF AN EAGLE
GLIMPSE OF YELLOW PINE POLLEN
ARRIVING IN PINES.

PRINCES ON WATCHTOWER
STANDING BY ICE DIAMONDS
DEPARTING IN WINDS.

BLACK-MANED LIONS REST
REMEMBRANCE OF THUNDER CLOUDS
RED-MANED PONIES, CLEAR.

TRAVELING IN STARS
BEAUTY OF FLAMING SUNSET
BEATING WINGS OF GEESE.

LACE-WHITE PEACOCKS SLEEP
REMEMBRANCE OF HEAPS OF HAY
MIST UPON SQUIRREL'S FUR.

UNICORNS DROWSING
THOUGHTS OF STEEP GREEN RIVER BANKS
SCENTED THORNGRASSES.

CRY OF AN EAGLE
SORROW OF FLOWER-SHADOWS
PINES UPON TEMPLES.

MOVING WATER, DARK,
WALKING AND SEEING MOONRISE
DOE BY THE WILLOWS.

ELK IN MOUNTAIN PASS
OLD MAN IS SPEAKING OF SNOW
LONELY CITY, PALE.

TRAVELING IN STARS
BEAUTY OF FLAMING SUNSET
BEATING WINGS OF GEESE.

SCENTED THORNGRASSES
STANDING BY WILD STRAWBERRIES
GOLDEN ORIOLES.

LOOKING AT FRONTIERS
REMEMBRANCE OF MEADOW GRASS
BLACK-MANED LIONS SLEEP.

WANDERING IN STARS
STANDING BY FALLEN ACORNS
SNOWSHOE HARES DROWSING.

MOON LOW OVER SEA
WALKING AND SEEING COOL SHADE
MOTHS AGAINST WATER.

RED-MANED PONIES, MIST,
REMEMBRANCE OF MORNING STAR
UNICORNS PLAYING.

WORDWORKS

CANT	RACE	CORE	ROPE	CARE	COAT
CART	RATE	COPE	ROTE	CAPE	COLT
		CONE	ROLE	CANE	

ACT ALONE

ACT APART

ACT ALERT

ACT CLEAN

ACT ENACT

ACT LATER

ACT NOT

ACT ONCE

ACT ONE

ACT UPON

LYRIC 1101

the beautiful opinion
standing tell the thief. not change. the
every wine approach the thief.
sadly change after sonia.

better thief remain someone
never know under judy
someone went sadly baby.
never know under judy.

better thief remain someone.
never know under judy
someone went sadly baby.
never know under judy.

better thief remain someone.
never know under judy
someone went sadly baby.
never know under judy.

written by elliot 4130 computer and algol program.

THE REPLACEMENT — Developed from Lyric 1101

love, that beautiful opinion,
is guarded from erosion of days passing.
but time, the thief, intoxicates
with ecstasies of wine
and sadly, changing, steals all
that we had.

better could we still the flow of time
towards the darkness coming.
with sonia i was sure.
will judy fill the void of stolen pleasure?
sadly baby, sadly,
i don't know.

LYRIC 2120

love forever want in them for
carry indeed as i wont know.
private distance talk what hey. an
awful women tell the thief. not
approach after pat we can since.

sadly liketa tell if dean me.
every reason change while pow. the
every reason change the thief. not
approach after pat we can since
remain standing tell if dean me.

wanna sadly change while pow. the
every reason change the thief. not
approach after pat we can since.
remain standing tell if dean me.
every reason change while now. the

written by elliott 4150 computer and algol program.

IF YOU WERE ME — Developed from Lyric 2120

i certainly expect the best from people,
require of them an endless depth of love,
for, knowing not their thoughts and every actions,
how else can i control them?

take, for example, my friend — a thief called dean,
whom i have tried to educate
(as so you would if you were me)
into the monstrous ways of feminine morality.

of course he does not heed my many reasoned warnings,
never apprehending that pat's elusiveness
is due to this and to the compound distance
between people — privacy.

if you were dean you'd know you must stay standing,
avoid those humbling postures he adopts.
accumulating compromise
brings creeping evolution to our souls.

if you were me how else would you advise him
of the sad inevitability of change?
no-one can ever access pat's most private thoughts,
so relax baby, welcome instant love.

LYRIC 3205

judy gotta want upon someone.
wanna sadly will go about.

sammy gotta want the thief him but the
every reason. real distance carry.

before god wanna remain.
private distance talk indeed baby. an.

diane likta tell the thief him but the
every reason. real distance carry.

before god wanna remain
private distance talk indeed baby. an

written by elliott 4130 computer and algol program.

RESTLESSNESS — Developed from Lyric 3205

judy needs to need someone
sadly searching everywhere

sammy finds his soul attached to
travel, movement, free as air

diane lusts communication
every life is her domain

private distance talks indeed and
drives us all to search in vain

LYRIC 6154

kiss out of anthony he liketa while pow. what
begin without johnny someone went not hi. while
carry over tracy someone went not hi. while
carry over tracy someone went not hi. while

terrible their very much be happy
lemme recently can remember upon sue
someone dont lemme not under the since please. earth
running go away the movie star anyone.

beautiful wine happily feel crazy.
gotta suddenly cant be happy after pat
someone dont lemme not under the since please. earth
running go away the movie star anyone.

written by elliott computer and algol program.

DUET AFTER THE PARTY
— Developed from Lyric 6154

a kiss from anthony ?
 he used to like to while.
pow !
 what ? begin without johnny ?
he's bringing tracy over.
 i'll wait.
hi !
 terrible thief, i want so much to be happy.
do you remember when sue.
 but they wont let me, not since.
not under the.
 please !
earth running ? going away ?
 is anyone a star anymore ?
i'll never be happy again, not after pat !
 suddenly, suddenly i must —
 beautiful wine happily feel crazy !

LYRIC 7302

suddenly gonna be happy to sonia we love then.
someone dont lemme remain under mick someone be with.
sadly be happy after sonia we gotta never
remain regularly want upon sue someone wanna
sadly under the miserably in someone. sylvie.

gonna regularly want very much the old wine they.
swinging solution perform quickly on someone wanna
remain as well as wanna sadly of the old. wine when
go out the movie star someone along him will tell or
gotta miserably. not be happy to pat we when.

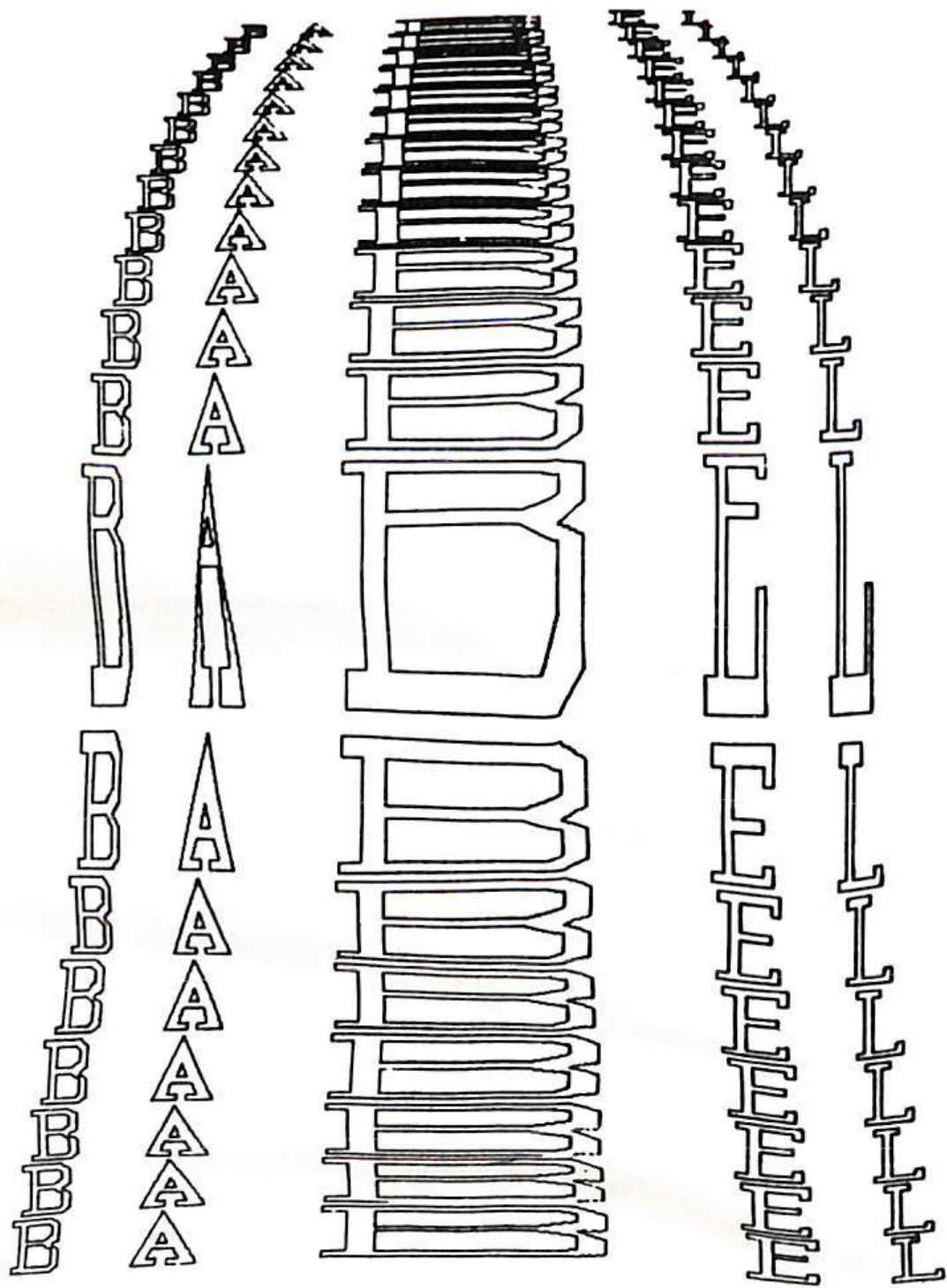
create anyone never remain of someone wanna
remain the movie star. sadly approach to pat we when
gotta miserably in the beautiful opinion.
tony dont liketa never remain when the old wine them.
swinging solution perform quickly on someone wanna.

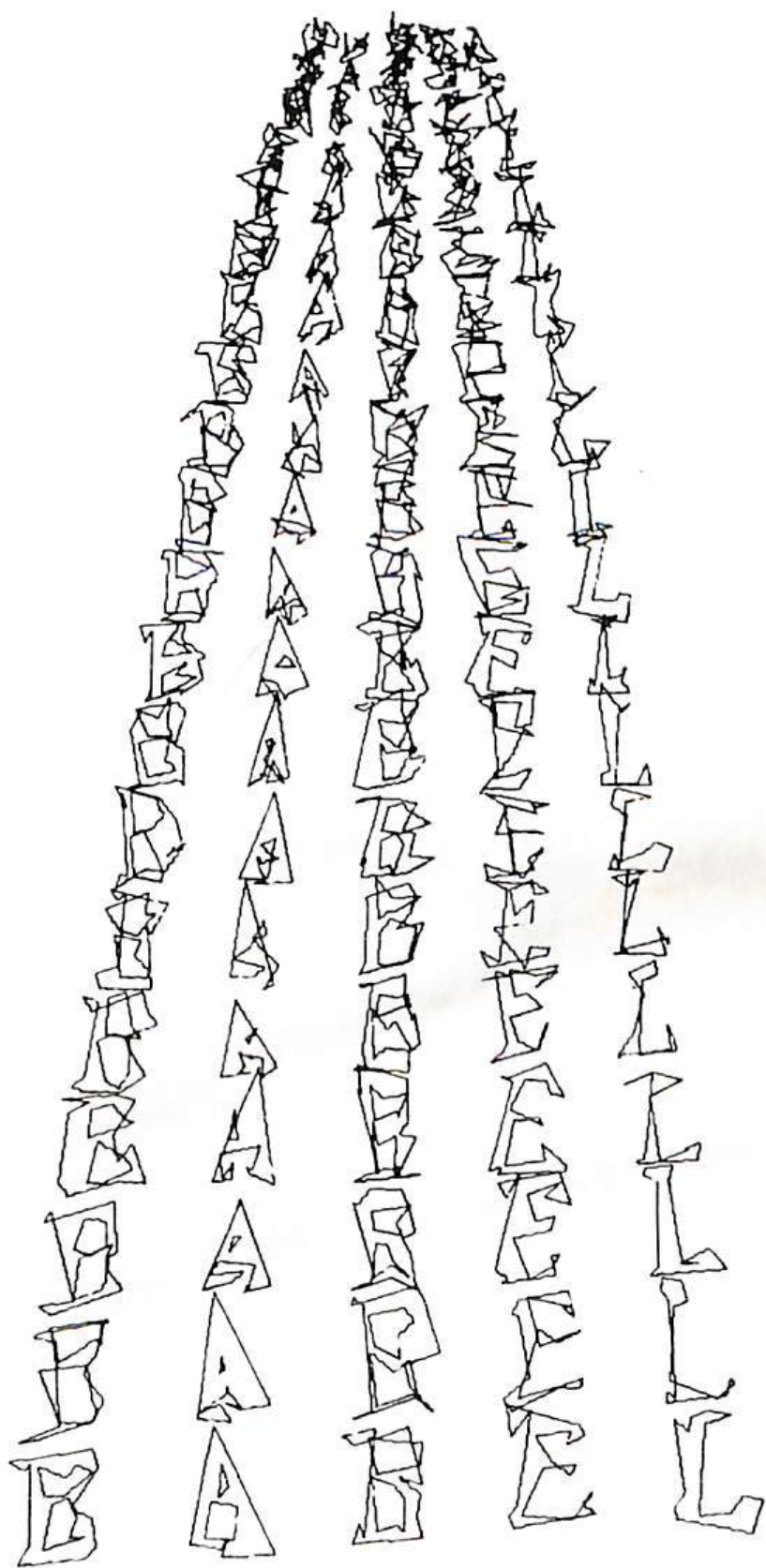
written by elliott 4130 computer and algol program.

A LAMENT OF COMMUNAL LIVING

— Developed from Lyric 7302

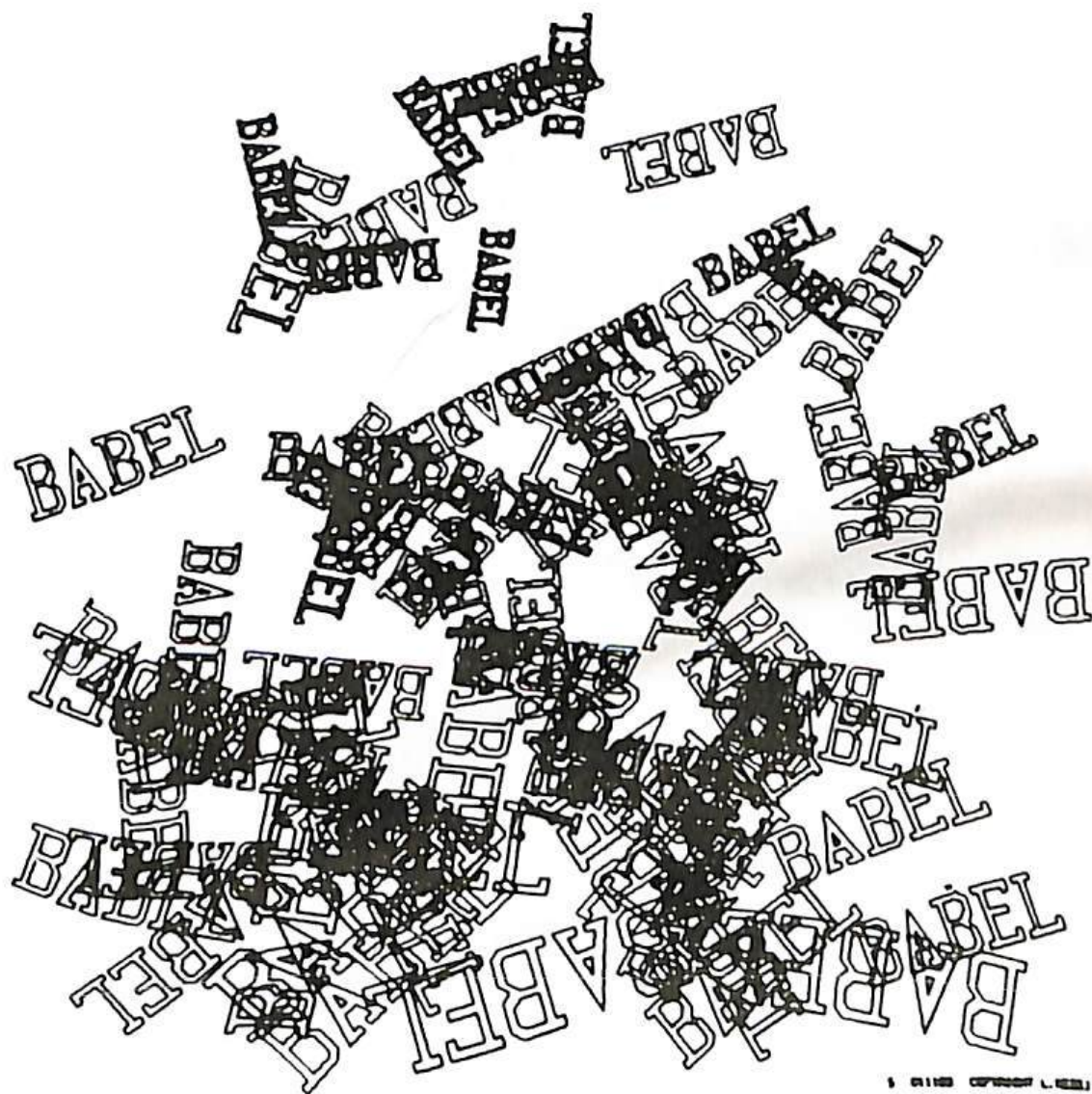
i sit suffused in fellow man
communing brothers, sisters, so called friends
i get depressed by mick, whose overbearing influence
the others shield me from
suddenly sonia may make me happy
and then we'll love
and after sonia who? i must not feign an artificial joy
nor regularly lust for sue
must i miserably mourn in sylvies sympathetic arms?
i fear that i will crave the old wine
very much
perform with someone quickly. stay intact
a swinging solution
but still i'd need the wine
when the movie star of my mind's silver screen is gone
will someone tell her
or must i suffer silently with pat?
my mind's creations never stay
or if they do
they crave to be the star
i tried to bare my soul to pat, reveal to her
my beautiful opinions
but as with tony she doesn't like to stay
when penetrating wine inspires
the swinging solution is
to perform quickly on someone



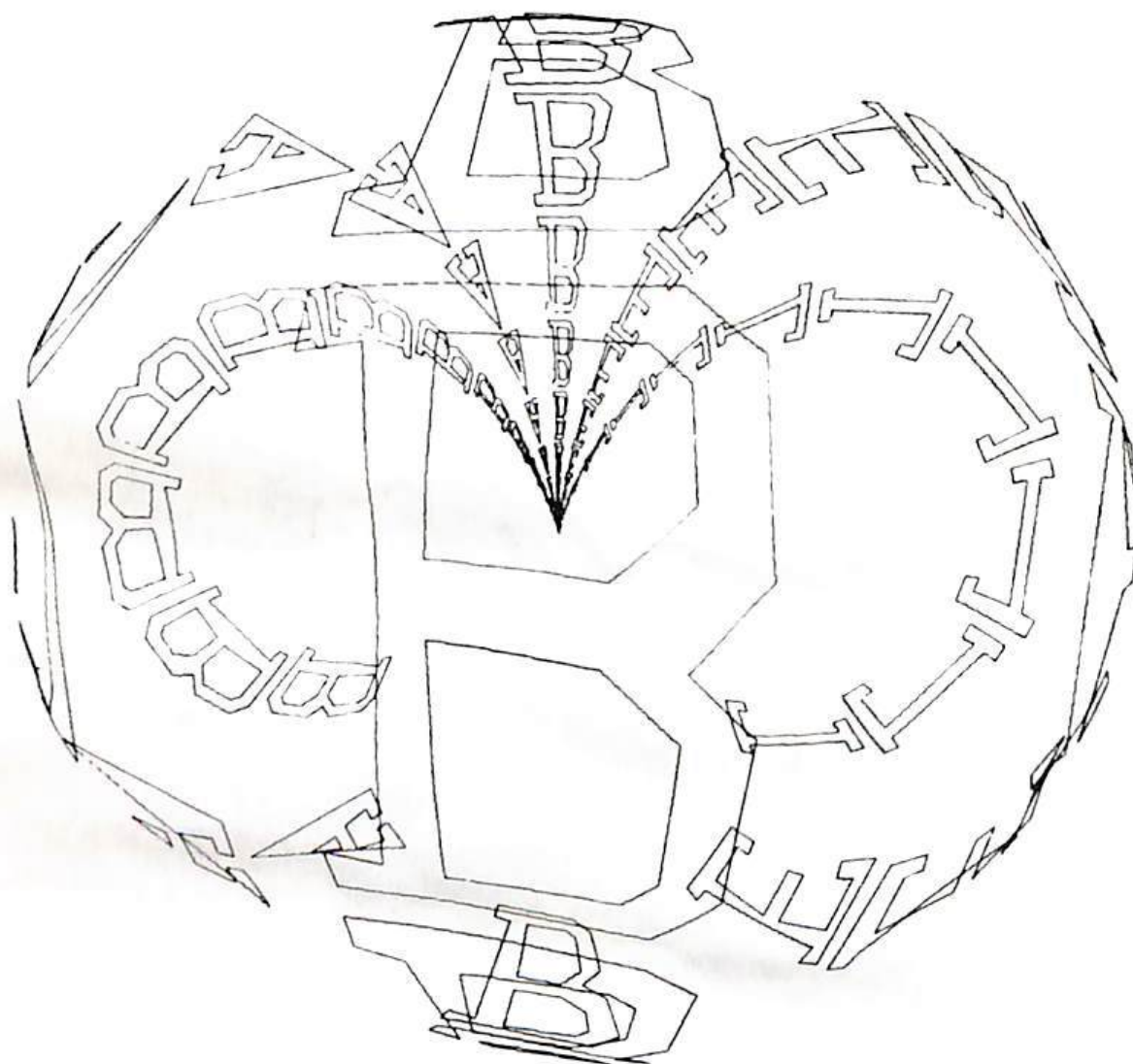




2. 10. 1951. 10. 1951. 10. 1951.



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Louis T. Milic

from *PROGRAM ERATO*

/

I, a young man in the arena of the finish,
I looked upon a lovely region.

I stopped upon a lovely height —
I, a young prophet in the house of the sun.

I stayed upon a high thing
Above the eager faces of the surf.

I stood upon a great tower,
I, a neat girl in the light of the sun.

I, an old girl in the house of the goal,
I, a fond prophet in the forum of the forest,
Stay here alive above the heavens.

Put, Lay, Set

Above the cold ruffles of the surf
Darling (unless my blood can skip)
And here (passive beside the dome)
Put your sleeping body, my friend,
Refuse your lively back, my pet,
Lay your drowsy hair, my life,
Darling, when my spirit can skip,
Set your sleeping face, my darling.

Above, Above

This is my epistle to the universe:
Above the eager ruffles of the surf,
Above the plain flounces of the shore,
Above the hungry hems of the wave.

Neat Father

I, a neat father in the light of the breed,
I stayed upon a high thing.
Fall to me in the chaos of the season.
Yet here hard under the dome,
Above the plain flounces of the beach,
Arrange your drowsy figure, my love.

I Have Noticed

I have noticed many obedient matrons say:
Join your active person, my sweet,
Above the cold pleats of the sea.

I have believed that fervent females declare:
Liking is not all: It is not bread nor brains,
Above the early ruffles of the beach.

Wave to me in the still of the dark
Darling, because my mouth can leap.
This is my sentence to the people.

Margaret

Margaret, are you saddening
Above the windy jumbles of the tide.

Wave to me in the peace of the night.
Jealousy is not all: It is not refreshment nor water.

Return to me in the pause of the shade,
Darling, because my spirit can chime.

Above the early flounces of the stream
Margaret, are you saddening?

Whoever You Are

There will be the breath during the silence then.
Whoever you are, fastening me now in grace,
Whoever you are, fastening me now in hope,
Concord is not all: It is not food nor water.
This is my message to the universe.

Aged Boy

Above the windy garments of the shore,
This is my script to the race:
Come to me in the stillness of the dusk,
Oppose your silent arm, my side,
I, an aged boy in the office of the forest.

Harmony

This is my word to the multitude:
I stopped upon a proud tower
Above the fresh ruffles of the surf,
I, a fond prophet in the place of the finish.
Harmony is not all: It is not flesh nor body.
Harmony is not all: It is not food nor water.
Above the humid ruffles of the shore,
This is my sentence to the creation,
This is my message to the creation.

THE COMPUTER'S FIRST BIRTHDAY CARD

many returns happy
many turns happier
happy turns remain
happy remains turn
turns remain happy
turn happy remains
remains turn happy
mains return happy
happy mains return
main happy returns
main turns happier
happier main turns
happier many turns
many happier turns
many happier turns
many happier turns
er turns er turns?
happy er er happy?
er *error* er *check!*
turn er pre turns!
many happy turners
+\$-!=0½†*/£["%1?
many gay whistlers
no no no no no no!
many gainsboroughs
stop stop stop stp
happier constables
01 01 01 01 01 01?
raise police pay p
ost early for chri
stmas watch forest
fires get well soo
nbonvoyageKRRGK
many happy returns
eh?eh?eh?eh?eh?eh?

THE COMPUTER'S FIRST DIALECT POEMS

The Furze Kidder's Bating (Northamptonshire)

Blea on the baulk the furze kidder rocked
with a bottle of flags and a budget of bent.
Sawning and soodling in a drabbled scrip
he hirpled and jolled hirkling and croodling.
Morts of mizled mouldiwarps
gaddered the ball at beavering hour
and progged the fotherer's frumitory.
His cag of stingo by the stools
was teemed by puddock, pink, and pismire.
Glabbering sturnels swopped on sprotes.
Rawky popples whewed and quawked.
Hariff and foulroyce clouted the meer.
Brustling at clink and bandy chock
his sawney doll pelted pranking.
Bating the lown with hugh icles
she pilled him on the pudgy platt
and pessed his yaum as pluft as a pooty.

A bumbarrel scrowed Joe Millar's book.

The Birkie and the Howdie (Lowland Scots)

A dorty, vogie, chanler-chafitit birkie
brattled the aizles o the clachan chimlie,
glunched at his jaupin quaich o usquebae,
scunnered red-wud at the clarty lyart howdie
snirtlin by the ingle-neuk sae laithron and tozie,
and gied the thowless quine a blaud wi his gully
till she skrieghed like a cut-luggit houlet and dang her tassie
aff-loof at his unco doup, the glaikit tawpie.
The skellum callan goaved at her fell drumlie:
'Ye tocherless wanchancie staumrel hizzie,
ye groazlin, driddlin grumphie, ye awnie ferlie,
deil gie your kyte curmurrings o scroggy crowdie,
and bogles graizle ilka ramfeezl't hurdie
till aa your snash is steekit, ye duddie hoodie!
— 'Ach, I hae warlock-briefs, stegh the collieshangie!
An your ier-oes sall gang sae muckle apley
they'se turn to blitters and bauckie-birds, and in a brulzie
they'se mak their joes o taeds, aa thrang and sonsie,
snowkin in aidle whaur asks and clegs are grushie:
yon is an ourie pliskie!'

Wha wan the tulzie?

(Based on the glossaries of the collected poems
of John Clare and Robert Burns respectively)

HAIKU – AT RANDOM

Dark drawn savage hollow
Samurai: these still topple.
Fleas, froglings, silent.

Savage silent song:
The spring echo, oh, echo,
Echo was slain, silent.

And weird old still frozen,
Oh, my drawn silent well: down
Insatibly drawn.

Midnight: in scarecrow,
Scarecrow, well, far scarecrow,
Scarecrow, scarecrow, spring.

Frogling, listen, waters
Insatiable, listen,
The still, scarecrow dusk.

From silent old fleas,
These, down topples midnight; I –
Old, in old weird still.

Glittering, from savage
Standing dusk, down, old glittering
Song, still weird glittering.

Dark waters, sing of
Battles; our fleas, fleas echo
Dusk; these in dusk, dusk.

sten: I dreamed, was slain.
Up, battles! Echo these dusk
battles! Glittering . . .

Fleas spring far, scarecrow,
Oh scarecrow, scarecrow: well, far,
Scarecrow, oh scarecrow.

Dawn: insatiable
Echo, scarecrow, glittering,
Oh, glittering, glittering.

Song topples our spring;
Hollow the insatiable battles,
And I: savage frogling.

GRADED INTENSITIES

DEBRIS,
AND NUMB TRANCES
WITH CALM CREATION,
YOUR NUMBNESS ASTONISHES
IN DREAM BALLOONS.
SEDUCED IS SLEEP
WHICH HOVERS
IN TRANCEMOTIONLESS MOONLIGHT.

THE INVERSION WISHES OF DRAGONFLIES
ARE MADE
OF FLASHING GLASS
LURING IN THE FREEDOM
OF SUBORDINATION,
LIKE THEIR SILENT SPIRITS.

THE ROMANCE OF WINGS
IS THE THINNESS OF STREAMS.
THEIR SUPPORTING COMPLEXITY
IS GRACEFUL LIKE WRINKLES
TURNING A FLAT EYE.
WINGS HOVER
LIKE FOG AND GARGOYLE,
HOVERING WITH THE FLAKE
OF COMPLEXITY BRANCHED.

A CAUSE OF CUEANS,
MIGHTY AS RELIABLE ROPES,
SCREAMS IN WILDNESS
WHILE A DETAIL OF TREES
SWAYS, LIKE A COBWEB
BEING ATTACHED
BY EXCESSIVE MASKS.

TO LINK WITHOUT INVULNERABILITY
TO GLOW, IN FUNDAMENTAL COMPLETION
WITHIN A CONCENTRIC EDGE
AS STRENGTH RELOCATES ITS HARMONY
A RAINFALL EVADES THE SYSTEM
CONTRIVE, AND FIND THE RAINFALLS OF
MODERATION
COMPLEX CHAINS AND HAPPINESS
GLIDING AT DIRECTIONS
THE WINTER OF ELATION

CREATE TO CHEER
SPLIT TO COMPLETE
HARMONIES STIMULATE THE STIGMAS
INSULTING AT EMBARRASMENTS
MY ELATIONS LOITER
ELATION-BREASTS
PERFORMING ACID HAMMERS
APPETITE LIKE ZONES

PAVAN FOR THE CHILDREN OF DEEP SPACE

Introduction

I want you to imagine a time in the distant future
perhaps millenia from now, when (if it survives)
the human race will be scattered over the vast wastes of
the galaxy,
where distances are measured in lifetimes.

I want you to imagine our descendants,
traveling from generation to generation,
seeking worlds that will give a foothold for existence.

This poem is dedicated to children born on such a journey,
in the great voids between the stars,
to whom the cities and forests of Earth are only a legend.

Poem

Ice worlds,
Haunted by the legend of planets. Ice worlds —
Arcturus Andromeda Vega — orbiting,
Lost among stardust through aeons of crystal.

Your seed has dispersed, lit by the jewels of infinity,
Lost in the empty ocean;
In time with the measured dance of the universe
orbiting . . . orbiting . . .

I am a child of eternity:
down is a lifetime in every direction.
Through aeons of crystal your seed has dispersed
on a journey to no destination.
sunburst starburst
Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn . . .
Down is a lifetime in every direction.

Born out of darkness:
Lost in the palaces of eternity;
Lit by the jewels of infinity
of the land of nowhere,
Your seed has dispersed in the dark light-years.
(Sunburst starburst)

I am a child of eternity;
I travel with comets . . .
born of some other, lost among stardust.
Lit by the jewels of infinity
down is a lifetime in every direction.

Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn: lost
in the empty ocean.
Orbiting: on a journey to no destination.
. . . Procyon Eridanus Rigel . . .

Lit by the jewels of infinity,
I travel with comets.

* * *

I TRAVEL WITH COMETS, I TRAVEL WITH COMETS

. . . through aeons of crystal . . .
. . . of this island universe.

I am a child of eternity (Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn)
I am a child of eternity
on a journey to no destination.

Lost in the palaces of eternity (Procyon Eridanus Rigel)
I weep no tears.
I prophesy the beginning.

Born out of darkness on a journey to no destination.
Born of some other, your seed has dispersed . . .
 between the galaxies (born out of darkness)
 between the galaxies — out of the land of nowhere.

* * *

Down is a lifetime in every direction;
Orbiting . . . dreaming of havens . . .
 (sunburst starburst, lost among stardust)
Lost, in the empty ocean between the galaxies.
I prophesy the beginning, dreaming of havens
 (Mercury Earth Uranus Pluto), lost
 among stardust.

* * *

I travel with comets; I weep no tears.
 sunburst starburst . . .
 . . . spindrift stardrift . . .
I prophesy:
 the beginning.

CHARNEL CARNATION

Awakening after the shockwave has passed,
charnel carnation,
richer than honey,
burning at the sun centre.

Fireflower passionflower,
blossoming on eyelids,
red petals spring out of the ashes,
burning at the crater's edge.

Charnel carnation,
crimson, exquisite,
teardrop petals, almost symmetrical,
travelling on the wind.

Eternity flower.
Gold stamens glitter in my stiletto eye.
Crimson pollen,
riding unseen on the nose cones.

I blossom on the flaking plaster.

I blossom among memories of cities.

Crimson
Crimson
Charnel carnation
awakening after the shockwave has passed.

Bone-clear tendrils,
crimson, delicate,
burning at the crater's edge.

Fireflower, passionflower
burning at the crater's edge.

I am your blood gift.
Your thoughts sparked me.

Greta Monach

is
is
to you

is
to you
to me

to me

love
love
nothing

need

is
is
i
something
i
me

to me

to you
to me
to me

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to you
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to you

nothing

come
darling

i'll
darling
darling
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love

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i'll
come
darling
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hate
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Computer poems /



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